

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJ: LOCKHEED AND THE FRG

REF: BONN 16383

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. STATEMENTS BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN LAST TWO DAYS HAVE KEPT THE LOCKHEED ISSUE BEFORE THE VOTING PUBLIC IN THESE FINAL DAYS OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN. ACCORDING TO DEUTCHE PRESSE AGENCY (DPA), JUERGEN MOELLEMANN, THE FDP SPOKESMAN FOR DEFENSE MATTERS ON SEPTEMBER 28 CALLED UPON CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS TO STOP ENTRENCHING HIMSELF BEHIND THREATS OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAW ACTIONS AND FINALLY TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SCANDALOUS REMOVAL OF LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS. SINCE IT IS KNOWN THAT A HUGE VOLUME OF DOCUMENTS ON THE STARFIGHTER PROCUREMENT WERE REMOVED BEFORE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE, MOELLEMANN SAID, THE MONSTROUS SUSPICION ARISES THAT THE BACKGROUND OF THE STARFIGHTER DISASTER WAS TO BE CONCEALED EVEN BY APPLYING THE MOST BRUTAL MEANS.

2. THE PRESS SPOKESMEN OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD) ARMIN HALL TOLD DPA THE SAME DAY THAT THERE ARE WITNESSES THAT DOCUMENTS OF STRAUSS'S TENURE AS MINISTER FOR DEFENSE WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE FINANCE MINISTRY WHEN STRAUSS WAS MINISTER FOR FINANCE. THESE DOCUMENTS CAN NO LONGER BE LOCATED AT THE FINANCE MINISTRY.

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HALL SAID THAT MINISTER FOR LEBER HAD

ORDERED THE MOD'S CHIEF INVESTIGATING OFFICIAL, FRITZ JOSEF RATH, TO OPEN A NEW INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS. THIS WAS DONE AT THE REQUEST OF AN SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY, HOLGER BOERNER.

3. ALSO ON THE 28, THE CSU HEADQUARTERS IN MUNICH DENIED ASSERTIONS THAT STRAUSS HAD REMOVED DOCUMENTS FROM THE MOD, AND SAID THAT THE LATTER WILL OPPOSE SUCH ASSERTIONS WITH ALL MEANS IN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAW. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CLASSIFIED (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. RATH RECENTLY CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT HE HAD BEGUN INVESTIGATION OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE MOD DOCUMENTS, IN VIEW OF THE FUSS THAT HAS ARISEN OVER THEM, DESPITE HIS FEELING THAT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION IS LARGELY USELESS UNTIL HE HAS SOME SOLID LEADS TO GO ON, LEADS WHICH MIGHT BE CONTAINED IN THE LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS OF THE USG. END CONFIDENTIAL.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

5. ON THE RELATED MATTER OF THE LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS THE FRG IS RECEIVING FROM THE USG, CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT ON SEPT 27 TOLD DPA THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ATTEMPT FOR THE TIME BEING TO MAKE A FORMAL INVESTIGATION. THEY WERE SO VOLUMINOUS HE SAID, THAT IT WOULD TAKE WEEKS JUST TO SORT THEM EVEN TO SEE IF AN INVESTIGATION WERE NECESSARY. END UNCLASSIFIED.
HILLENBRAND

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